



2002-04-18

Number of pages: 3

ISO/TC 211

Geographic information/Geomatics

Title: Concerns about the resolutions of comments on ISO 19115 at the DIS stage

Project: 19115

Source: NB of Canada

Status: Comments about the result of voting

Required action: For information and consideration at the 14th ISO/TC 211 plenary meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, 2002-05-23/24.

Reference: N 1234

File names: 211n1257.doc - 211n1257.pdf

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ISO/TC 211 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION / GEOMATICS

Title: Concerns about the resolution of comments on ISO 19115 at the DIS stage

Project: 19115

Source: NB of Canada

Date: April 15th, 2002

Status : Comments about result of voting

Required action: For decision at the next plenary meeting of ISO/TC 211 in Thailand

Reference: Document 211 N 1234

Concerns about the resolution of comments on ISO 19115 at the DIS stage

Summary

Canada recognises that all comments provided on ISO 19115 at the DIS stage are valuable. If accepted, many of them would mean a significant improvement of ISO 19115. However, Canada understands that the policy should be to get the standard ISO 19115 out immediately and not to try to include last minute amendments. Canada provides the present comment for a possible debate at the plenary meeting that will be held in May 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand. Canada hopes the situation be resolved first by the secretariat.

Concern

Canada feels that the resolution of comments on ISO 19115 at the DIS stage should not re-open any issues that were contentiously debated and not open new issues since this would likely cause the standard to be defeated at the IS vote. The following are issues that Canada feels should not be opened at the DIS stage but rather be submitted to a future amendment of ISO 19115:

1. Relationship between series and datasets (ref.: comments AU-01, Italy [3], ANSI[4], OGC[1])
2. *EX_Extent* unsymmetrical between spatiotemporal dimensions (ref.: comments AU-08)
3. Extension mechanism for code lists (ref.: comments AU-09, ANSI[1])

This issue is currently under discussion with NWI 19135. Maintenance of code lists and other parts of the standard should be done through a register. This register can be set-up immediately, in parallel with the finalisation of 19135. Then a technical amendment can take registered new items and include them in the next edition (amendment) of the standard ISO 19115.

4. Content of the core metadata (ref.: comments JP-16, CH-1, UK-9, UK-10, UK-11)

5. TopicCategoryCode (ANSI[16])
6. Other topics (ref.: comments AU-12 to AU-20)

In addition, several major comments doesn't provide a clear "proposed change" and that makes difficult to predict which solution will be adopted (ex.: AU-08, AU-09, AU-10, AU-11, ANSI[1], ANSI[5], ANSI[16]).

Many comments need substantive amendments. A project team should have a chance to review these specific issues. If so, ISO 19115 should be sent back to CD stage. Should it be the case, Canada would be pleased to provide additional details comments for improving ISO 19115.

In the work currently undertaken to establish a profile of ISO 19115, Canada is improving the names and definitions for more than 50 % out of the 409 metadata sections, metadata entities or metadata elements since the result of translating names and definitions from ISO 19115 to the French language was too often meaningless or ambiguous. Also, the following extensions are under discussion in Canada: 147 additional metadata entities and metadata elements (almost all optional), including 57 additional code lists. Canada feels that such work would be also a significant improvement of ISO 19115.

In conclusion, Canada recommends that

- either the specific issues - identified above - from comments on ISO 19115 at the DIS stage be left for a future technical amendment, where they can be openly discussed by a project team,
- or move the standard back to first CD status in accordance with the ISO Directives 'Flow Chart for options for development of an International Standard, Directives Part 1' and allow for an editing committee in Bangkok to discuss the proposed substantive and contentious changes.

Additional request

Also, since many people are working to implement the current version of ISO 19115 (ref.: document 211 N 1024), and since any minor modification will have an impact to such work, Canada suggests to the Secretariat:

- To not modify row numbers in Annex B.
 - If a row is added, its numbering should respect the following format: "x.100", where "x" means the row number from the previous row.
 - If a metadata element or a metadata entity is deleted, the row should be kept but the mention "Left intentionally blank" should replace all the content but not the row number. This row number should not be re-assigned.
- to publish, after the resolution of comments on DIS 19115, a detailed corrigenda of all modifications made to 19115. The mention of the decision made on each comment won't be enough.